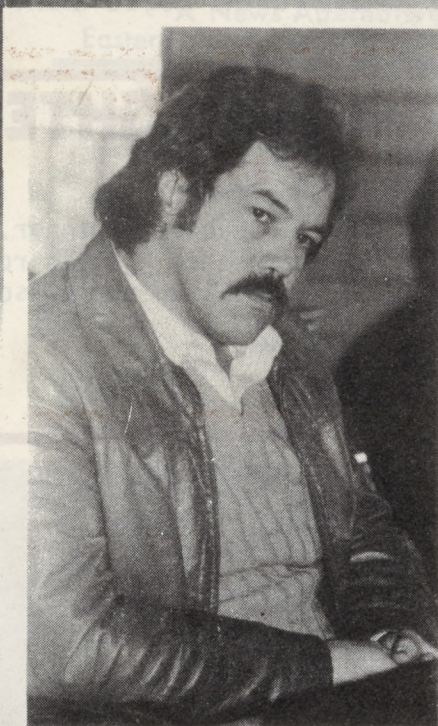


The
Inyo-
Mono
**NEWS-
LETTER**

**March
1982
75¢**



APCD'S CHUCK FRYXELL

Tackling DWP diversions:
APCD demands permits
from L.A.
P. 8



DWP'S DUANE GEORGESON

Mother and child reunion... P.5

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ON THE COVER

With a Mono Lake duststorm in the background, DWP and the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District square off over water diversions that cause murky air in Inyo and Mono. See story, Page 8.



A News Alternative Eastern Sierra News Service

The Inyo and Mono News-Letter, formerly The Inyo County News-Letter, is a publication of Eastern Sierra News Service, Inc., published at offices located at 536 North Edwards Street in Independence, California.

Telephones: (714) 878-2381 and 878-2582

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All correspondence, including readers' letters to the Forum Page, should be mailed to PO Box 531 or 275 Independence, Cal. 93526 Eastern Sierra News Service is owned and operated by John Heston and Benett Kessler. ESNS represents the following news organizations:
ABC Channel 7 Eyewitness News
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Andrew and Leah Kirk

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FORUM your view



The News-Letter welcomes readers' letters and comments relevant to public issues. Letters should be brief and concisely stated. The editors remind readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either the editor's agreement with its content, or its accuracy. Address letters to PO Box 531, Independence, California 93526.

John Heston, editor

THE PROS AND CONS OF REAGAN'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE

Editor:

After my reading, and re-reading, your "Pre-election Suspicions Confirmed" article on page 24 of the February 1982 issue of the *Inyo-Mono News-Letter*, I've decided to send you some comments.

Although my voting registration is "Democratic Party," for the primary elections I have frequently voted for Republican candidates in the follow-up November general elections, as apparently many other registered Democrats have done during the 1950's, 1960's, '70's and early '80's judging by the election results. I moved to California in 1950 and have been a registered voter since 1952.

Briefly, my comments about Mr. Reagan give me the thoughts that his handling of the State of California financial budget is entirely different from his proposals for reducing Federal budget deficits. (Yes, I voted for Mr. Reagan in November 1966, feeling it was most necessary to stabilize the state's finances.)

It is my recollection that Gov. Reagan was successful in so doing by increasing the state sales tax by 50% from 4% to 6% and sub-

stantial increases in our state's income tax schedules, during his first term at Sacramento. A large majority of the voters liked California's state government finances getting back into "the black" and Gov. Reagan was reelected in 1970.

Based on Mr. Reagan's record as governor for ending budget deficits and his numerous statements indicating he planned a similar policy for the U.S. government, if elected president during the 1980 campaign, he received many votes from citizens who believed in having a sound budget policy program started in 1981 with a balanced federal budget by 1984.

Pages 48 and 49 of the Jan. 18 issue of *U.S. News and World Report* show the budget records of the various presidents from 1934 to date, with Harry S. Truman's record for small deficits the best. During his eight years, Mr. Truman's budgets had four surpluses and four deficits with an overall eight budget deficit of only \$4.4 billion.

If the administration's preliminary estimates stay firm, Mr. Reagan's first four budget's will show a deficit of \$481.3 billion, by far an all-time record.

An amazing contrast to his campaign oratory during the 1980 campaign.

Charles L. Hapke
Lone Pine

(Editor's note: Mr. Hapke is a former Inyo County Supervisor.)

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Editor:

We read your article titled "Pre-Election Suspicions Confirmed" in the Notes from B.K. section of your January issue of the *Inyo-Mono News-Letter* and take issue with it. Your assessment of President Reagan's first year in office is based on some obvious misinformation and the record needs to be set straight.

You state that President Reagan's campaign promises have not been kept. Even his most avid opponents admit that more than any other recent president, he has kept his campaign promises. As a matter of record, he cut taxes, cut government regulations, reduced the size of the Federal government and is taking steps to strengthen our national defense - all campaign promises.

You allege that in foreign relations he talks hard and acts soft. On the contrary, he acted immediately to impose embargoes on Poland and Russia when martial law was declared in Poland. He opposed Israel's annexation of Golan Heights by suspending the Strategic Cooperation Agreement with them. When Libya attacked our planes in international waters, our forces responded without apology. *U.S. News and World Report* states that "Reagan's hard lined foreign policy has come across loud and clear to the Kremlin and the era of unchallenged Soviet adventure abroad is over." These decisive actions demonstrate that once again America has backbone to stand up for its interests.

Continued on page 20

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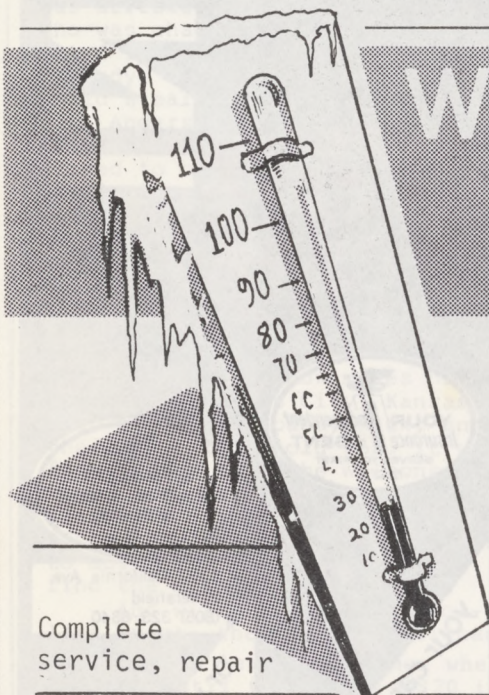
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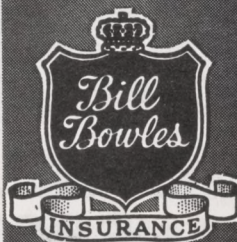
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Mother and child REUNION

On an April day in 1979 Janice Wilson says she packed a bag for her three-year-old daughter, Bridgett, and waved goodbye as the little girl went off with her father, Janice's ex-husband, supposedly to spend Easter week with his relatives. Bridgett was supposed to be returned to her mother's custody in five days. But nearly three years passed - agonizing years for Janice - before she saw her daughter again.

Bridgett and her mother had become victims of the new and growing crime of child stealing. In an era of mounting divorce rates, an increasing number of ex-spouses disagree with the courts' custody rulings. Taking matters into their own hands, many "kidnap" their own children, usually during an otherwise legal visitation period.

What happens after that may be a grueling game of hide-and-seek as the spouse with legal custody attempts to track his or her missing child or children, and as the offending parent attempts to avoid detection.

For Janice Wilson, 23, the hide-and-seek game ended at Bishop. There, Janice finally located Bridgett with her ex-husband, Bill Anderson, who was arrested on a Kansas warrant and who was charged with "felony aggravated interference with parental custody," the legal terminology for child stealing.

Anderson says he had specific motives for what he did, but declined to comment further since criminal proceedings are continuing in his case. His attorney, Art Maillet of Bishop, commented briefly: "More often than not fathers are on the losing end in these matters. There are two sides to this story, but his part will have to be told in Kansas."

Mrs. Wilson now makes her homes in Arkansas City, Kansas, with her new husband, Nick, and their four-month-old son. It was from Kansas that the Wilsons directed their all-out search for Bridgett, using every method possible from private investigators to advertisements in trying to find the missing girl.

And with thousands of dollars spent, the Wilson still had no concrete leads about her whereabouts. That is, not until they made a \$20 investment with the Federal Parent Locator Service. There they hit paydirt.

The sudden case of child stealing was an issue that caught many local authorities somewhat off guard. In Inyo County, it is a rare occurrence. A worker in the local Child Protective Service office says there have been



Photo: Marilyn Fisher

Janice Wilson and her six-year-old daughter Bridgett had not seen one another for three years when they were reunited in Bishop recently. Girl was the victim of a "child stealing," allegedly taken by her father. Bridgett had been told her mother was dead.

"a few" child stealing cases here, but they have always dealt with a child missing only a few days. They had no experience with a child separated from its mother for three years. And, they were dealing with regulations of another state.

The service used by Mrs. Wilson, it turns out, is not available to the general public in California. Tim Ridsen of the California Parent Locator Service said their prime function, as a branch of the Department of Justice, is to assist district attorneys of each county in locating parents involved in child support

cases. He says they have no authority to use the federal locator service for child stealing cases and that it is up to each individual state whether they will assist in such cases.

Bishop attorney Kenney Scruggs, who handled the local proceedings for Mrs. Wilson, says it is very important to make sure custody papers are transferred if the legal guardian moves to another state. This avoids any problems in determining jurisdiction. Also, once a child is found, Ms. Scruggs says the parent with legal custody should take along a certified copy of the court order awarding custody to prevent other jurisdictional problems.

But in Kansas at least the PLS provided Mrs. Wilson with two addresses where Bridgett might be found: one in Bakersfield, the other in Bishop. Mrs. Wilson phoned the Bishop Police Department and told them her story. Next day, they found the girl.

"We got in the car almost immediately," says Mrs. Wilson. "We tried to get an airplane flight but they were all shut down due to a blizzard. So three of us came to share the driving and we drove straight through from Kansas without stopping."

Mrs. Wilson was reunited with Bridgett at a Bishop motel the next day. The girl, who had been told by her father that the mother was dead, had been well briefed by a local social worker who wished to prepare her for what otherwise could have been a shocking experience: the sudden appearance of a "mother" she thought was dead.

"What I wanted to do was just take her and hold her and cry," said the relieved mother. "But I couldn't do that because I knew how it would upset her because she hadn't seen me and

Continued on page 18

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by
Clarence
Benbrook

NEWS THESE DAYS CAN BE DOWNRIGHT DEPRESSING, BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP CLARENCE BENBROOK FROM SEEING THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THINGS...

In addition to the recent cheese giveaway, the government has enough prunes stored away to give every member of Congress a dish for breakfast for the next 1052 years. Why can't we give them all at once and have the biggest purge since Watergate?

Nominated for the political "Hall of Shame" is State Representative John Schmitz who found he could call a spade a spade, but not a dyke a dyke.

Jerry Brown is performing major surgery these days. He's removing an economic growth from California.

Economists are using different names for bad times...Depression, recession, deflation, panics and crashes. You feel depressed as your friends lose their jobs. It turns into a recession when you lose yours. There follows a deflation of your pocketbook, a panic as your unemployment runs out and you have to crash the welfare gate.

The Internal Revenue Service says taxpayers have found a new loophole. They're cheating.

With the extremely cold weather over the country, police are reporting a sharp drop in crime. Instead of more policemen, it would be cheaper to have more cold weather.

Our government is thinking of starting job training for unskilled laborers. It's much more rewarding to be an unemployed engineer than it is to be an unemployed garbage collector.

Somebody's trying to convince us that we will survive a nuclear war. Maybe so. We know the poor are all in a Hole, and the rich are all into LoopHoles.

Poland is getting ready for a great influx of tourists. They are all coming over in Russian tanks.

Congress will be spending only 145 days in session this year. Thank goodness for the other 220 days of relief.

An article in the papers says if Jimmy Carter can run for president, why not Alan Cranston? Why not? Everybody wants to screw up the country. Cranston speaks softly and carries a big screwdriver.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power claims that taking water has no bad effect on the Owens Valley. And rigor mortis has no bad effect on a healthy person, either.

Christ the King Lutheran Church is taking credit cards for contributions these days. They could advertise "Church for tomorrow accepts the Master's Charge card." Pay up or you get a VISAtation from you-know-who.

An Inyo resident received an obscene phone call. The IRS phoned and informed him they are going to audit his tax returns.

Members of Congress have to scrape to make ends meet these days. They meet tax-

payers and scrape it off their ends.

The US may have to bail out savings and loan companies. Seems there are too many loans and not enough savings. That should put another crack in the Liberty Bell.

There are two solutions to our present economic problems. Cut to prosperity or spend to prosperity. Cuts cause unemployment, spending causes inflation. You have a big choice: Fish or cut bait.

A homesick Cuban carrying a little bottle of gasoline hijacked a jetliner to Cuba. Now that's pretty good mileage on a little bit of gas.

Nine convicts were wounded at San Quentin Prison when guards broke up a brawl by firing birdshot. Wounded five jailbirds and four stool pigeons.

Reagan's cuts are threatening the national parks too. Yellowstone has cut down to the BEAR necessities and Old Faithful has blown its top.

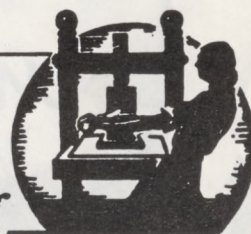
Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volker says Americans can expect no relief from staggering interest rates. Give them several more shots of "Old Federal Reserve" and we will all stagger to the unemployment line.

Ben

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News Briefs

THE GREAT BASIN AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT DROPS A BOMBHELL
ON DWP: GET PERMITS OR QUIT DIVERTING / MAMMOTH CONDO OWNERS PACK
'EM IN / A MAMMOTH TEACHER CALLS IT QUILTS OVER COACHING JOB

For months, years even, Inyo-Mono's air-watchful Air Pollution Control people had been stewing and muttering over DWP's continued abuses of the Eastern Sierra's air. DWP water grabbing had left a land so dead that dust often made the air worse even than L.A.'s.

It should have been no real surprise then when APCD's Chuck Fryxell almost casually threw another explosive issue at DWP in late February. In a letter to DWP's Duane Georgeson, Fryxell announced just as routinely that henceforth DWP and its water grabbing would come under APCD's "Rule 200-B." Some saw it as poetic justice: one set of bureaucrats, the city's, suddenly under the regulatory demands of other bureaucrats, the state's.

But the rule appear to be more than a minor regulation and, if it is vigorously enforced, may have dramatic bearing on all future DWP activities. The rule says DWP is "required to obtain a permit to operate any equipment which may cause issuance of air contaminants. The operation of the diversion structures within the Owens and Mono water basins causes the emission of particulate matter which has been most readily seen and documented at Owens and Mono Lakes."

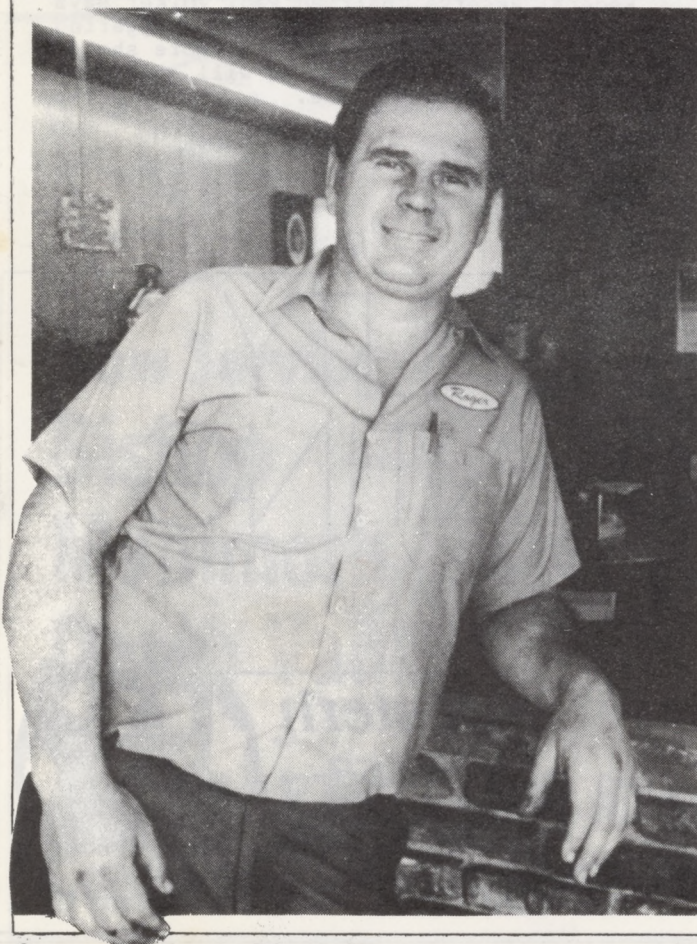
Of the latter claim, the charge about the two lakes, there was little doubt of its truth

in either case; the Valley folk had been choking and coughing all too long, and now they might possibly look forward to some relief.

In effect, APCD charges that DWP's diversion of natural waters has so dried up certain areas that only dust remains, and it pollutes the air when the wind blows.

More than a few scientific studies show that wind circulates poisonous chemical dust from the Owens Dry Lake and from Mono Lake's dry areas. (See February News-Letter.) It was not the first time Fryxell raised the threat of rule 200-B. At least two years ago, Fryxell notified DWP that all of the groundwater pumps in Owens Valley cause air pollution. DWP filed a lawsuit and later settled it, more or less, by joining APCD in a "study" about air pollution and groundwater pumping. In that case, Fryxell had matter-of-factly required DWP to obtain permits for each one of its well fields in Owens Valley, a lot of permits that may or may not have been granted. Applying for permits means proving that the potential pollution source will not cause pollution. Otherwise, no permits, no pumping.

So, Fryxell has once more required DWP to apply for permits if it continues with water diversions. And, along with his letter, Fryxell also sent Georgeson application forms



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for the permits. In no uncertain terms, Fryxell told Georgeson that DWP must submit those forms to the APCD within 15 days from February 18.

What if DWP refuses? Fryxell laid that out too. His letter says: "Failure to comply with the permit requirements shall result in appropriate legal and/or administrative action." Copies of his letter went to every control board member, to each of Inyo's and Mono's county counsels, and to the chief counsel of the Air Resources Board. So now, the DWP battle escalates from a ground war to an air war. The state may mean business with no nonsense.

Sources close to the issue say that the ARB has lately shown a "great interest" in DWP's Inyo-Mono activities. ARB Counsel Leslie Krinsk may now take over if this issue enters the realm of legal hard ball, as well it may. The local APCD board has talked about using Mono's County Counsel Neil Van Winkle on some air pollution control issues. Inyo Supervisor Wilma Muth, also a control board member, said she asked Inyo County Counsel Dennis Myers not to serve as legal counsel on this since some see a conflict in Myers' involvement with Inyo-DWP fights and with APCD-DWP fights.

Some control board members prefer not to confront DWP at all. Mono Supervisor Bob Stanford and Inyo Supervisor P.D. Cook, both members of the control board, have taken the "cup of coffee" approach. Soft-liners, they fear DWP's retaliatory power. Each insists in spite of past evidence to the contrary, that problems with DWP can be worked out with a little conversation over a cup of coffee. Very few thinking people any longer agree with such naivete.

Most residents now think there has been far too much talk, and they have seen no action whatever: The pumps, obviously, are still bleeding the area dry.

But such nervous palpitations as those suffered by Cook and Stanford really have nothing to do with Rule 200-B. Fryxell says that's the law, pure and simple. With its bevy of attorneys, DWP will undoubtedly resist that law.

TRADING IN THE CHALKBOARDS FOR A REAL ESTATE CAREER

Ongoing personnel conflicts at Mammoth High School led recently to the resignation of science teacher David Boe amidst a noisy controversy over his refusal to coach a girls' basketball team.

Boe, a veteran of eight years as a teacher there, had been hit with a 10-day suspension without pay after he turned down that coaching assignment. He had coached a number of sports during his time at the school but this year felt "it was someone else's turn." He said no, and principal Joe Maruca recommended the suspension, later upheld by the school board.

In his letter of resignation Boe said he felt it was unfortunate that after training all his life to become a teacher with a master's degree that he would end up resigning over a coaching assignment "I was never hired to perform."

Now, he's left behind the chalkboards and classrooms for a full-time career in real estate.

Continued on page 13



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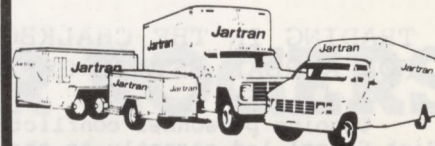
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Wally Charleston

WALLY TAKES A LOOK AT THE GRAND JURY SYSTEM AND HAS SOME COMMENTS ON THE HIGHWAY 203 "BOONDOGGLE."

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Most of you know me. I've been honest with you for almost five years. That makes us anything but strangers and helps to make talk flow. It makes it easier for both of us.

For starters, I'd like to throw out two questions: What do you think of the grand jury system? Is it effective?

My thoughts are that it may not be. It seems that when I was growing up, the law had some teeth in it. Crooks and lawbreakers shuddered at the prospect of a grand jury investigation. A grand jury was an honorable body of people, selected from a cross-section of the community and they were dedicated to balancing the scales of justice. Crime just wasn't fashionable, be it blue or white collar. If you were busted, it didn't make any difference. You took your lumps if that's the path you chose. You learned quickly or took a long vacation.

But, crime today has different shades. It has "interpretations." Lawyers and lawmakers have set things up that way. They've built in "loopholes" for everything. "Extenuating circumstances" and "technicalities" creep more and more around the hallowed halls of justice.

And, "friends in high places" don't hurt, you'll agree with me. Today, any crook or lawbreaker can weasel out of ever seeing the inside of a jail cell if he's got friends with clout.

That's just the way it is. Even in Mono County.

I personally like the example of the simple traffic light placed on every corner in the big cities. Lit up, it says WALK or DON'T WALK. A clear-cut message in red and green, expressing in the simplest terms that you are breaking the law or abiding by it.

Imagine the chaos if the law and the light were not there.

Next, I'd like to hear just one local politician say "We're gonna get a handle on gov-

ernment spending" and really mean it. Wouldn't you?

Just take a minute and give some thought to how your tax dollars are spent in Mono County. If you think clearly and follow some of the horror stories in the local news, you should be mad as hell about some things.

Take, for instance, the still-to-be-completed Highway 203 mess. A friend, who is a prominent Beverly Hills attorney with a home here, calls it "intentional fraud."

Some questions we should be asking: How did the contractor, James Francis of Bakersfield, get away with starting late on the project, with too few crewmen and nothing to speak of in the way of equipment for the job? Our contract with him called for a "responsible contractor" and not simple a "low bidder."

Francis, who had the same delay problems in June Lake, is now having bigger troubles in his own home town. Bakersfield Public Works Director Dale Hawley says Francis is lagging far behind on completion dates of three more projects in that city. One has caused a main traffic artery detour since March, 1981.

Hawley is demanding "liquidated damages" of Francis.

But, is it entirely the contractor? Could it be that it is just another bungling example of planning mismanagement by our well-paid public officials? Now that the smoke-screen is lifting, what we're seeing is a boondoggle in Mammoth, extremely dangerous to pedestrians, a snow removal nightmare, blacktop beginning to crumble and a lot of damned unhappy business people and taxpayers. Me for one. I say it was a boondoggle in the planning stages, illegal in concept, with no provisions or regard for public safety.

It will get even more expensive before it's done right. It may never get done right.

As I said, I'd like to hear just one local politician say, "we're gonna get a handle on government spending" and really mean it.

wouldn't you?

It's been nice talking with you. Let me hear from you soon.

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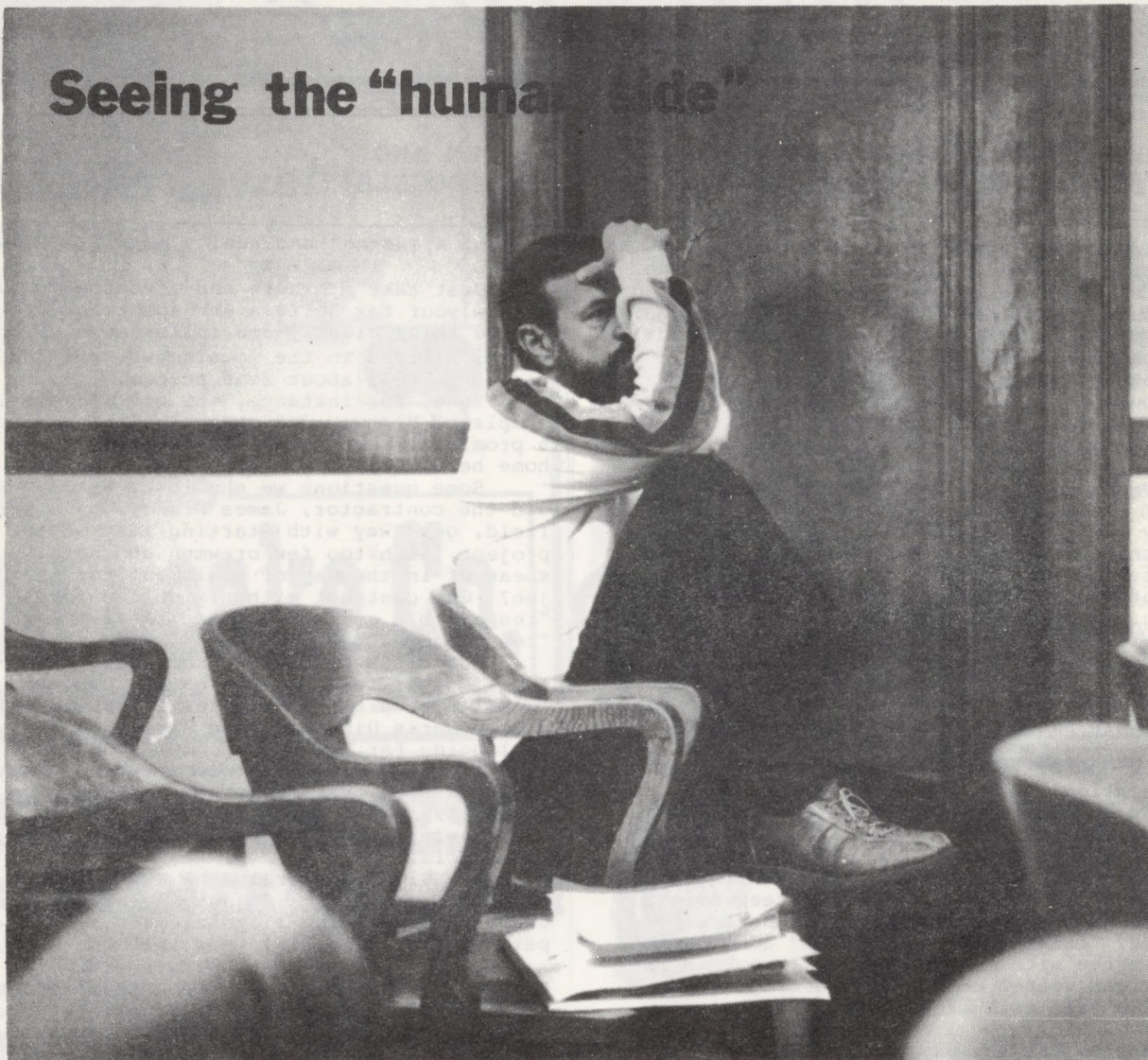
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Seeing the "human side"



A couple of years ago Welfare Director Norm Paulson sat back for a bemused breather after doing battle with his bosses, the Board of Supervisors; He had fought for - and was granted - a wage increase for one of his employees.

It was typical Paulson who saw, and worked in, the "human side" of government. The endless gray parade of down-and-outs who daily made their way to his welfare office produced not only volumes of paperwork there but also caught Paulson's very personal attention. He was involved; a lifetime member of the county's society of the personally concerned.

A point in example: One day in January Paulson headed out to Death Valley where a family suffered big trouble - no home and lots of personal problems. Paulson wanted personally to help. He did, but this time he never made it home. That day Norm Paulson died in an automobile accident near Furnace Creek.

Ironically, his death came at a time when the spirit of the very social programs he so effectively implemented were drastically collapsing. Paulson's friends and associates note that he lived and worked as a true liberal -

almost compulsively concerned about the needs of those less fortunate. When possible, he hired people on welfare to work in his own department. He sent two of his own workers to Mono County to help out in the drought of 1978 when many in Mono fell on hard times and lined up for food stamps.

Once a foster child in Inyo developed a serious eye condition. Paulson personally took the child under his charge, took him to an out-of-the-area hospital. The Welfare Director feared for the loss of the child's eye. Thanks to Paulson's concern, the youngster's sight was saved.

Paulson usually preferred peace over strife, and some interpreted the inclination as weakness. Those who knew him well, however, like Inyo County Administrator Mike Hanford, said that Paulson simply had the ability to show strong feelings for people. "Something," said Hanford, "with which most people, most men, have problems."

In fact, his was an ability to see a greater truth in all human beings...Norman Paulson 1933-1982.

MAMMOTH SKIER ACCOMODATIONS: CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Cheaper by the dozen? You bet. That's the way some Mammoth condominium or apartment owners fill up their rental property with skiers...by the dozen.

The skiers pay less. But is this kind of "move 'em in, stack 'em up" attitude safe? Not according to Mono Treasurer Al Cohan. He wants the Mono Supervisors to adopt an ordinance setting an occupancy limit on commercial rentals. The treasurer first got onto this issue when a woman wanted to apply for a business license to rent out a one bedroom loft with rental rates of up to 12 people.

Cohan got upset. He says too many people in a rental can cause water problems, noise problems and even plumbing problems...it's just not safe and healthy. Cohan proposed an ordinance to somewhat limit occupancy of rentals. Some in the lodging community at Mammoth saw red. Informed sources say that some businessmen fear having any occupancy ordinance on the books because "they don't trust the supervisors to leave it alone." Some privately say that the board can later raise the occupancy limit once an ordinance goes on the books.

But meanwhile, it's wall to wall bodies in some rentals. For now, there's no law against it.

GOING, GOING, GONE: DWP HOUSING GETS MORE SCARCE

Affordable housing, especially rental housing, continues as a growing concern of officials in Inyo and Mono Counties. Last year a workshop in Bishop confirmed the threat of dire housing problems in store for this area where only a small percentage of land is open to building. (The rest is held tightly and dominated by bureaucrats: Forest Service, BLM, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.)

Up and down Owens Valley and the Mono Basin, DWP has maintained a number of houses through the years but now as many of those houses grow older and upkeep costs rise, they are sometimes sold at auction or bulldozed and hauled to the dump as splintered trash. A few historical homes have suffered such ignoble ends.

DWP Real Estate Agent Rich Verble says

no new houses have been constructed by the department since the early 1950's and that now only about 90 employee-rented houses and 35 to 40 additional non-employee units remain.

For many years, especially during the 1970's, workers occupying DWP houses enjoyed substantial price breaks compared to open market housing. Verble admits that bonus no longer exists. "Since 1937 it's been the policy of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners to charge the fair market rental whether



Razing the roof
Another DWP farmhouse bites the dust

it was for employee housing or not," he commented. "However for years and years it was very cheap because DWP didn't reappraise the properties between 1971 and 1980. During that entire period there was only one 15% rent increase. But now the property has been reappraised. We can't subsidize the rents and make them cheaper than the market rate. The city charter won't allow it."

Another thing the L.A. city charter won't allow is the sale of DWP water rights with land or the paltry few houses that are auctioned off. Verble says for that reason only properties within town or city limits qualify for sales.

When those houses fall into a state of disrepair they are not always renovated...if the pricetag is considered too high. "When a house is vacated we look at its condition," said Verble, "and if it's reasonably good we'll refurbish it if it won't take a lot of money

Continued on page 16

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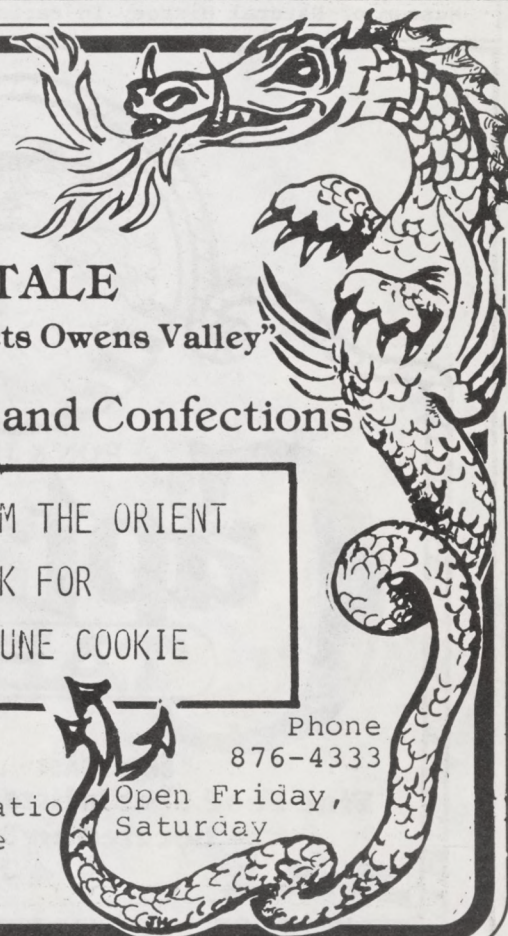
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News Briefs continued from page 13

to do so. When the houses are very old and often have bad foundations, to make it decent, safe and sanitary would be cost prohibitive." That, says DWP, was the case of the familiar landmark farmhouse recently destroyed south of Bishop, one of three homes torn down in the past year. "The only thing holding the walls up was some panelling the tenants had put in themselves. When they moved we told them they could take it with them and they did. There wasn't much left inside."

Verble says the city "isn't interested in being landlords" but on the other hand shows little interest in divesting itself of existing housing. "It is not our goal to eliminate employee housing, it just depends on how easily it's refurbished and whether it's inside the town or city limits."

Evidently, what the DWP housing situation comes down to is a question of money...and water.

INYO COUNTY'S OWN "CHIPMUNK LADY" PUBLISHES A NEW BOOK

In Carmel Valley they call her the "Chipmunk lady." In Inyo County she's Enid Larson, biologist and outspoken advocate of environmental protection. Ms. Larson has courageously spoken out against DWP's destruction of Owens Valley; now she has published an extensive field study about the Palo Escrito Chipmunk known as "Merriam's Chipmunk." Copies of the 100-page study have gone to some prestigious locations: The Museum of Natural History in Paris, France;

the University Library at Kyoto, Japan; the Smithsonian Institute in Washington; the American Museum of Natural History in New York; and the Field Museum in Chicago. Hers is a scholarly tome.

Ms. Larson said she first got interested in chipmunks when, at three years old, she used to feed sagebrush chipmunks on her family's ranch south of Bishop. She studied the Merriam Chipmunk for 26 years after graduating from the University of California at Berkeley as a biologist.

Merriam's Chipmunk on Palo Escrito offers a fascinating, detailed analysis of the creature...of special interest to the scientifically inclined.

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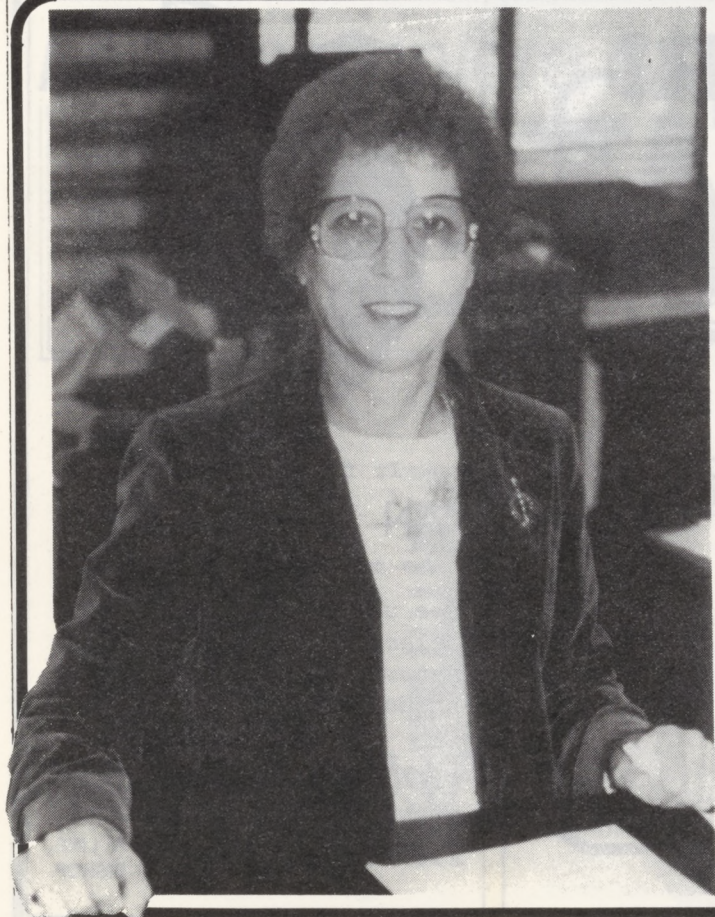
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Child stealing continued from page 6

I hadn't seen her. I didn't want to emotionally shake her up. I just asked her to come sit beside me on the bed. We looked at some pictures and she got to show me pictures she had seen at home with her real daddy, Bill. We just looked at pictures and talked. She did real well and I feel I did fairly well."

Mrs. Wilson had been prepared for a more traumatic meeting, but said her fears were unfounded. "She was shy but she wasn't afraid. I don't know, maybe she does remember things from the past. But I couldn't have asked for anything better. I was afraid she'd start crying and say 'You're not my mommy,' because that happens. But she didn't."

As for the future, Mrs. Wilson says her ex-husband will still be entitled to visitation periods with his daughter, but they will be limited to four hours each Sunday and must take place in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. Anderson may not take the girl out of her home during the visits, she says.

Mrs. Wilson says she has no desire to keep the girl away from her ex-husband. "A child who is kept away from a parent, that's the one they usually turn to in the long run," she notes. "I'm more or less going to leave it up to her. When Bridgett gets older, if she cares to visit her father, when she's old enough to understand what's going on, then I'd let her go if it was her wish."

How old is old enough?

"Maybe when she's 13 or 14," says Mrs. Wilson. "A lot depends on the future. Now I'm just glad to have her back."

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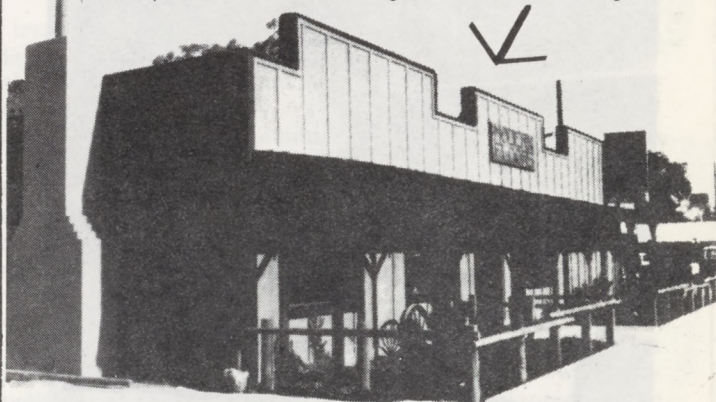
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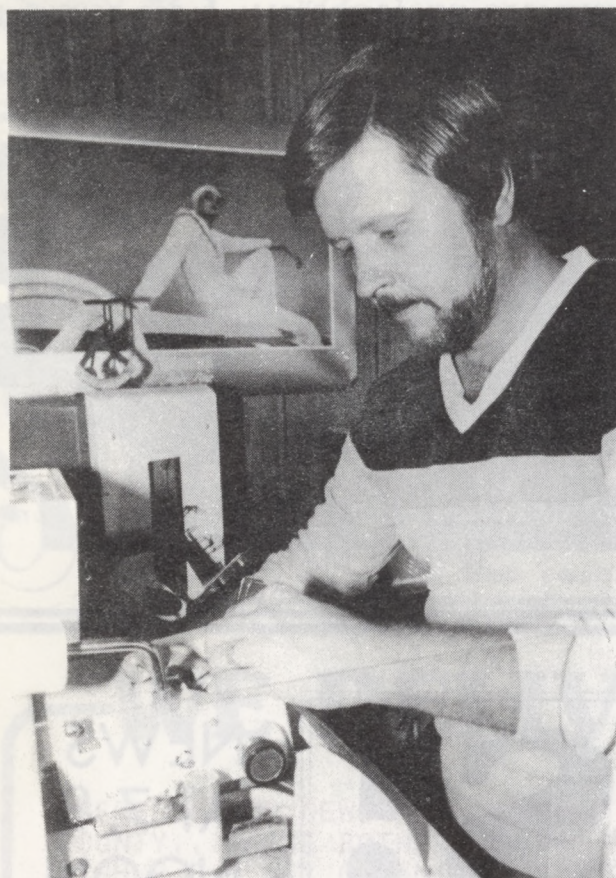
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Forum continued from page 2

As for the state of the nation, the misery index (unemployment plus inflation) is lower today than it was during the previous administration. Unemployment is at 8.5% today, and inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index is 8.9% in contrast to 12.4% in 1980. This is the smallest annual rise since 1977. Inflation is expected to be slightly above 8% by the end of 1982. This would be less than half that recorded for the peak in 1980. Interest rates have been reduced since President Reagan took office from a prime rate of 20% in 1980 to the present rate of 15.75%.

In regard to your accusation that President Reagan encourages racism, he has asked Congress to pass legislation to deny tax exempt status to private, non-profit schools with discriminatory policies. He believes Congress rather than individual agencies should specify what kinds of tax policies apply to private schools.

You say we are closer to war now than in the 50's and 60's. We would like to point out that at the present time, no Americans are fighting any place in the world, but during the 50's and 60's young men were engaged in combat in Korea and Vietnam. President Reagan, by increasing America's defense posture, is closing the military window of vulnerability left open by years of unilaterally disarming under former administrations. He has simultaneously opened the door to negotiations for nuclear disarmament with the Soviets, based on strength, not weakness.

Since President Reagan has only been in office a little over one year and his budgetary program has only been in effect since October 1981, we feel it is premature to pass judgement on his performance.

Jane and Keith Bright
Independence

P.S. Please publish our letter in your next Inyo-Mono News-Letter.

(Editor's Note: Okay. It's published.)

Editor:

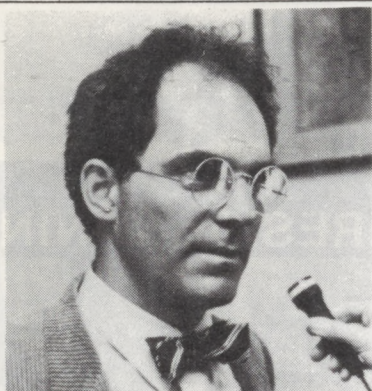
According to J. Duncan (in the February Forum section), Mr. Payne is possibly threatened by the two top reporters in the valley. She even makes a diagnostic guess that his frustration may be caused by not finding the right woman. All this from reading his views. How idiotic can one get? A cheap shot!

Does being single and unattached make them efficient? Is J. Duncan an authority in the journalism field?

Your own judgment about the local paper experience being bush league appeared in another story in your newsletter. In which big cities did those single, unattached girls get their newspaper experience?

Don Edwards
Bishop

(Editor's Note: Dayton and Los Angeles. Their editor got his experience in Dallas, Houston, Nashville, Los Angeles and as a correspondent for United Press International. He can assure you they're plenty "efficient.")



Political reform: the unfinished task

By ANTONIO ROSSMANN

This column, written by Inyo County Speical Legal Counsel Antonio Rossmann, was printed in the January issue of California Journal and is reproduced here with the permission of the author and the publication.

By a record majority Californians enacted the Political Reform Initiative in 1974. In so doing, they may have believed that they substantially eliminated undue influence and conflicts of interest in the political process. However, speaking as a frequent practitioner in land use and environmental disputes before state and local agencies, I believe we have miles to go in securing fairness in politically sensitive decisions.

In our state — and indeed throughout the nation — we need to implement two new rules of political reform: (1) to prohibit elected officials from voting on matters that are sponsored by their substantial campaign contributors, and (2) to prohibit attorney-legislators from appearing before state or local agencies on behalf of private clients.

These reforms are necessary to end undue influence that all too frequently skews what should otherwise remain rational and impartial public decision-making. Unsound decisions of several Southern California city councils and a California regional coastal commission — decisions which likely otherwise would not have been made — resulted from a handful of elected officials forcefully advocating the positions of the applicants who "happened" to be major contributors to the officials' campaign funds. In at least two San Francisco proceedings, private clients represented by a local assemblyman have secured exclusive access to the mayor's office; such access was denied to other parties with an interest in the city's decisions. At both the state and local level, state legislators have argued their clients' causes before agencies whose budgets are directly or indirectly affected by the legislators' votes in Sacramento.

The results have been neither surprising nor encouraging. Precious natural and cultural resources have been

lost or damaged by irrational or unwise decisions. Legislators and their clients have employed the benefits and influence of public office for private gain. "Access" has been "sold" only to those who purchase it by a retainer or campaign contribution. Most distressing of all, other citizen-applicants conclude that they must play the game in the same manner. Many who seek only a fair hearing "learn" to respond to campaign-contribution solicitations or to secure the state assemblyman as their attorney. The public at large expresses outrage to pollsters at these practices, but it is helpless under existing law to enforce any change.

At first blush, reforms to cure these evils might seem ill-advised. The First Amendment protects the right to political expression and association, which include financial support to candidates of one's choice. Talented attorneys ought to enjoy the unfettered license to represent clients in their areas of expertise. These arguments, however, ignore reality when applied to the situations described here. Project applicants do not contribute to an overwhelming majority of city council members of all political persuasions as an act of political expression; they do so solely to promote economic self-interest. The party engaging a legislator as counsel, and the legislator himself, obviously seek and secure special advantage flowing from the legislator's political influence and position. Today's legislators (compensated for full-time service) moreover face sufficiently demanding duties in Sacramento and at home to leave no "free time" for acting as private counsel.

With vigor but without ultimate success, the Bar has attempted to cure these ills without resorting to another statewide initiative. In a decision (*Woodland Hills Residents Association v. City Council*) resulting from representation of Los Angeles homeowners, the California Court of Appeal agreed with us that the majority of council members who receive substantial and coordinated campaign contributions from a project propo-

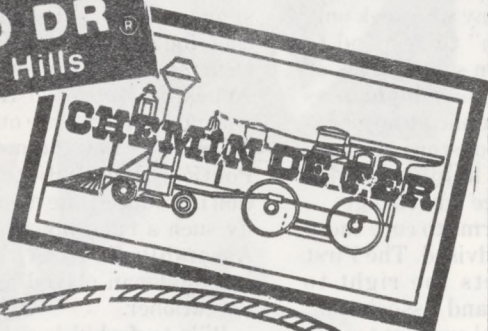
nent must be disqualified from voting on the proponent's application. After that decision and the *Los Angeles Times*' exposé of a regional coastal commissioner's solicitation of campaign funds from project applicants, the California Coastal Commission adopted regulations prohibiting commissioners from voting on projects sponsored by substantial campaign contributors. The California Supreme Court, however, reversed the Court of Appeal in *Woodland Hills*; the court declined to formulate on its own "rules of fairness" that did not appear in the Political Reform Initiative. Legislation introduced one month later to codify such a rule, however, died on the Assembly floor. A San Francisco assemblyman played the role of chief executioner.

Bills to forbid legislators from appearing as private counsel before public agencies have similarly failed to pass in committees this year. Significantly, the most comprehensive measure was authored by a San Diego assemblyman who last year suffered severe criticism for representing clients before state agencies. Only one bill (SB 884), which prohibits the practice but places enforcement in the hands of the Legislature itself, remains alive — but only because the Senate sent it back to committee for an unprecedented third hearing, rather than voting on the measure itself.

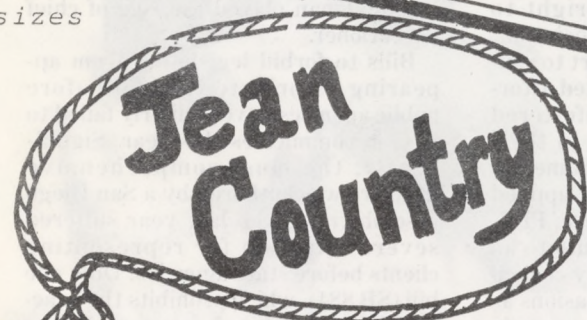
The horizon holds the dawning promise of a better order. The California State Bar has now endorsed legislation to end the practice of attorney-legislators before state agencies. The *Los Angeles Times* vigorously advocates both of the reforms discussed here, and now calls for a statewide initiative to cure the obvious failure of the Legislature to set its own house in order. The time is at hand for the people of California — with their citizen-attorneys assuming the lead — to effectuate reforms that will make government responsive to all citizens and the merits of their respective positions, rather than the undue influence of a privileged few.

Antonio Rossmann is a San Francisco attorney who heads the State Bar Committee on the Environment and also teaches at Hastings College of the Law.

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THOUGHTS FROM PAUL PAYNE ON THE FEDERAL RESERVE ACT



Paul
Payne

What has happened to the Constitution of this once great United States of America? Our lawmakers, judges, government officers and bureaucrats all take an oath of office that promises to "uphold and defend" that document that guarantees that "we the people" are assured those freedoms that were bought with the blood of our ancestors and passed on to this generation so that the liberties and freedoms, bought at such a high price, would be ours to enjoy and pass on to our posterity.

When this writer was in school, a whole semester was required to be spent in the study of our government, the Constitution from which it derives its powers, the legislative system, the executive branch and the judicial system. We were taught that the men and women who made our government work and function were of high calibre, honest, truthful and always placed the best interests of the United States of America, and its citizens, ahead of their own. As a result of the respect, love and admiration instilled in the hearts of the citizens of these United States of America for our Constitution, our country grew and prospered as no other country had ever done in the recorded history of the world.

Since 1913 this once great experiment in government has gone downhill like a truck without brakes; accelerating the downhill direction with every passing year and ever increasing fear of its citizens to "grab the brake lever" that will halt this mad plunge that we know can only end in total disaster for ourselves, our children and our children's children.

In 1913, the infamous sixteenth amendment to the Constitution was passed. This amendment did not nullify any previous portion of the Constitution but has been used by the government and its bureaucrats to violate the fourth amendment which guarantees "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects..." Also the fifth amendment which states "No person...shall be compel-

led in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." The government itself has become one of the greatest violators of these Bill of Rights guarantees through its Internal Revenue Service and its attempt to enforce this dastardly sixteenth amendment.

The year 1913 saw the passage of the Federal Reserve Act. This, together with its subsequent amendments, has been used to violate Section 8 of Article I which states, "Congress is...to coin money, regulate the value thereof and of foreign coin." Section 10 of the same article states "...make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts."

Violation of this portion of our Constitution has wrought havoc with our monetary system and brought about the greatest inflation our country has ever known. We have become beholden to the international bankers, our politicians and bureaucrats dance to their tunes, social conditions become more intolerable at an ever increasing rate, and man increasingly loses respect for his fellow man.

As a nation, we must return to our Constitutional government in all of its activities, again instill love and respect in and for this greatest of all man-made documents and see that it is strictly adhered to by all branches of government.

The operation may be painful but the cancer of diseased government must be removed for the survival of our nation and freedoms. It has festered too long!

Paul

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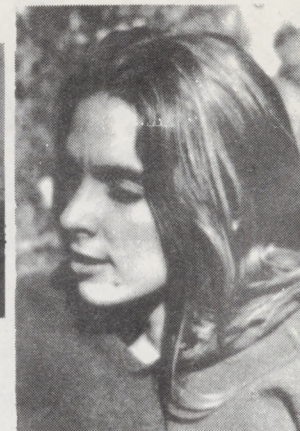
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Notes from B K



Bennett Kessler

A COVETED MAP OF IWO JIMA COMMANDS THE ATTENTION OF MILITARY BRASS/ IS MONO GETTING A MUCH BETTER HYDRO DEAL THAN INYO? / CUPID DOES HIS THING

BETTER THAN A CARTE BLANCHE CARD, MORE POWERFUL THAN POLITICAL OFFICE: That's Inyo Veterans Service Officer Bill Hastings' map of Iwo Jima. Hastings has modestly wielded this unsuspected power to bring the glory of military marching bands and other troops to Inyo parades.

The military sometimes looks askance at getting involved with non-military activities. But Hastings has managed to pierce their armor of reluctance. An ex-Marine, Hastings fought in the



Photo: Marilyn Fisher

Hastings and "the map"
A relic that moves armies

famous battle of Iwo Jima. Like all Marines, he received a combat map of the Iwo Jima attack plans. Most soldiers apparently lost or discarded their maps, but Hastings kept his. When he asked the Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Drum and Bugle Corps to take part in a Bishop parade, the military hemmed and hawed. Hastings casually mentioned his Iwo Jima map. The next day the Marine commandant from Washington called Hastings and said he could have anything he wanted. Washington wanted a copy of that map for the National Archives. Nobody else seems to have one.

Recently, the VSO decided to try for the Navy marching band at San Diego and a Pickel Meadows Marine platoon for Bishop's Mule Days Parade. Again...the same disinclination. With that map up his sleeve, Hastings made modest mention of it. The U.S. Naval Training Center officials rescheduled their training around Mule Days. In Mono County, Pickel Meadows Lt. Col. William Osgood opened the barracks doors to Hastings. Osgood will send a whole platoon with their mountain climbing gear to march in the Mule Days procession.

Neither name dropping, nor bribery or any sort compares to the Iwo Jima map's clout. Hastings says he even had a call from a history buff in Italy. He offered \$1500 for the coveted map. But Hastings says he's not interested in selling. He has made a lot of copies...copies that have wooed the favor of many military brass. Faith may move mountains, but Bill Hastings' Iwo Jima map can move armies.

GETTING A BAD REPUTATION? Our informed sources tell us that Inyo County may suffer from that malady. When all of the hydro deals were falling together a couple of months ago, a firm called Hydro Development, Inc. offered Mono County a pretty good deal. HDI will charge Mono nothing to perform work toward getting licenses

for hydro power development on Mono streams. In fact, they even paid Mono \$5,000 and put up a \$20,000 performance bond.

That same firm did go to the Inyo board with a deal. But it was an arrangement with a price tag. Private informed sources said that HDI feared involvement with Inyo because of "poor management" of the county.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE EASTERN SIERRA? That's what we hear. The Jewish population in Inyo-Mono does remain in a small minority. But some Jewish residents prefer not to identify themselves as such because of provincial minds that insist on a White Anglo-Saxon Protestant universe. Really, how utterly dull are some of our WASPS.

SMALL UNIVERSE DEPARTMENT: While taking in the Chinese New Year celebrations in Los Angeles Chinatown recently, we ran into an L.A. fireman, Wally Longworth. Turns out he has good friends in Lone Pine - Warren and Kathy Gross. Over the piano bar at the Grand Star Bistro he told us to give his greetings to Kathy and Warren, two of our VPP's.

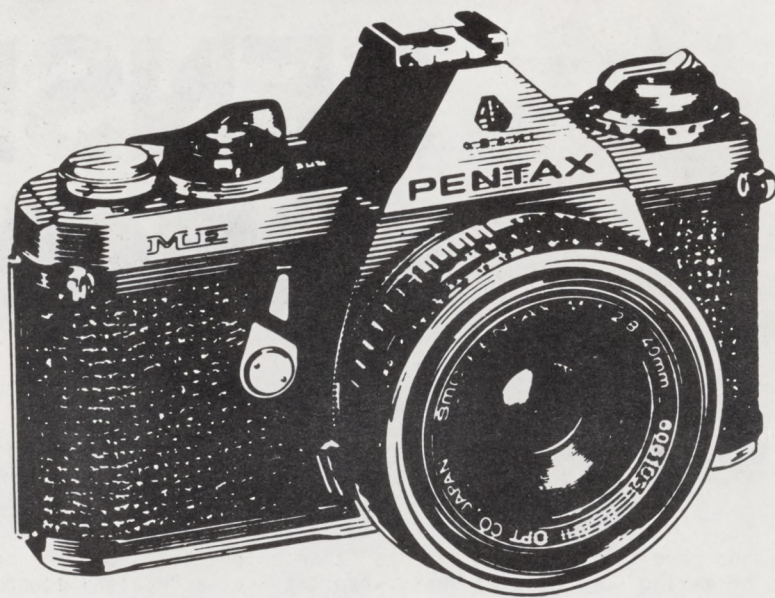
THE ULTIMATE VALENTINE: Burrell Gilson and Eva Poole scheduled their nuptials for Feb. 14th. The poet and the artist tied the knot on a Valentine note.

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We place no more faith in the "experts" than anyone else, but the economists do seem to be making some kind of sense when they say a "healthy economy" shows a growth rate of about 5%. We won't argue with that. But then by that standard, Inyo and the Eastern Sierra is not all that "healthy." We're not exactly stagnating, but we're not growing. Why? -Because we may be putting too much confidence in a single-base economy: tourism. If we are to look toward a "healthy" economic future we must begin now to attract industry - non-polluting industry that will provide jobs and a broader tax base. Our officials should act now, cooperating with and encouraging industrialists looking for a home base. Inyo should be working toward sensible growth.

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with us.**

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